

Come, and Let Us Return Unto The Lord (Hosea 6:1-3)

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Come, and Let Us Return unto the Lord Hosea 6:1-3

I recently read the account of a rancher describe how cattle wander off. He said well the cow starts nibbling on a tuft of green grass and when it finishes it looks ahead to the next tuft of green grass and starts nibbling on that one, and then it nibbles on a tuft of grass right next to a hole in the fence. It then sees another tuft of green grass on the other side of the fence, so it nibbles on that one and then goes on to the next tuft. The next thing you know, the cow has nibbled itself into being lost. Most people don't deliberately set out to backslide, but following their appetite & desire from one tuft to the next, they nibble ^{into} ~~into~~

I. A Turning to The Lord - The only way to return to the Lord we have wandered from is to turn toward him, to change our direction.

A. The Outcry of the Prophet - These verses are the cry of the prophet, the preacher to a wayward people. "Let us" The prophet includes himself in his plea for national repentance. We are a people that have cooled in our love and desire for the Lord. God awakens the backslidden condition in the prophet ^{the people} who calls to

B. The Original Position - The word "return" indicates that there was once a time when they were closer to the Lord than they are now. The person that has never out their

Trust in the Lord Jesus is invited to come and see
Not the Re-turn but to simply turn. But we that
have known God, who have a history with him
C. The Quining Person "into the Lord" The Lord
Jehovah. The self-existent God who graciously
redeemed us by His blood and delivered us
from the slavery of sin, who drew us to Himself
He rightfully quins us, and for us to wander
off from his love after the enticements of the
world is the highest form of spiritual adultery & rebellion.

II. A Truth About The Lord - As we turn
to him there is truth that we must recog-
nize about the Lord. "The truly repentant person
justifies God and condemns himself" Ps 51:4.

A. He Has the Authority to Hurt - As the
owner of a people, he has the right to
chasten that people as a father has not
only the liberty to chasten but the responsibility
to chasten. He has the authority to hurt not harm.
The father whips the son for running out into the
road, that he may feel the sting of correction in-
stead of the deadly impact of the truck. Heb 12:5-6
The nation of Israel had run into the highway
of sin ^{Turn to} Hosea 4:1-2, God has the authority to hurt ^{correct} to.

B. He Has the Ability to Heal - Yet at
the same time he has the ability to heal!
There is comfort behind his chastening. God's
pleasure is not in the chastening it is in the
reception of the repentant heart. Know this

INTRO) ...they nibble themselves through the fence and off into a place they have no business being. I have often found my hearts wandering off into places that I have no business in. It starts out fine and well satisfying my needs by the means that God intended, but then somewhere along the path, out side the fence of God's law, I starts satisfying my desire and appetites in ways God never intended, and that is sin. But what do we do when we find our selves there. I believe our text shows is. Every Christian can make their relationship right with the Lord by following the four descriptions we see in Hosea 6:1-3

- 1) ...change our direction, to repent. Jimmy had trouble pronouncing the letter "R" so his teacher gave him a sentence to practice at home: "Robert gave Richard a rap in the rib for roasting the rabbit so rare" Some days later the teacher asked him to say the sentence for her. Jimmy rattled it off like this: "Bob gave Dick a poke in the side for not cooking the bunny enough." He had evaded the letter "R." There are a lot of people today—including Christians—who go to great lengths to avoid the "R" word of "Repentance."
- 2) ...with Him are stirred to remembrance. To remember times where we feasted on His words, comforted and strengthened by his presence and captured by His love.
- 3) Psalms 51:4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.
- 4) Hebrews 12:5- My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

1) We must trust that he is able to renew our condition. We must trust that we are not so far gone that He is unable to touch our cold hearts warm them once again with those first love fires. First we must trust in...

2) ...churn it up or crank it up, we must simply turn and trust that he will do the work. When I came to Christ, I knew I could not live it, I know I didn't have the ability to affect change in my life. I knew it had to be a supernatural work of God in my heart to change me and I came to him trusting in that. I've heard old Johnny Hunt recall how he told his wife hours before his conversion, not to give him grief if he ends back up in a bar after he gives his life to Christ because if this God doesn't change him then it will not get done.

3) Psalms 32:5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

4) ...at the alter of repentance. Mercy and love will come running to the returning wayward heart!

5) ...ear shattering rock music, to sheew us off. But when we are right with the Lord, we can walk in his sight. The labors of our hands are not to be hidden. His grace enables us to live freely in His sight and His strength allows us to work mightily before Him.

truth as you return to the Lord, that the wounds of conviction do not lie outside his ability to heal. There is hope to receive, there is mercy to recover us, there is grace to renew us. Ex 15:26

His is Jehovah Rapi the Lord that healeth thee!
III. A Trust in The Lord^{vs} In our return to

the Lord we must not only turn to Him and acknowledge truth concerning Him but we must trust him! We must

A. His Sovereign Ability^{vs} He" Hosea was not trusting that after a while when we turn to the Lord that will come around. If we'll just get back and be more faithful to the church then things will pick up. No this is an all or nothing trust that if anything changes in our hearts it will be a divine work of God. We can't churn it.

B. His Speedy Arrival^{vs} These two and three days here refers to a relatively short amount of time between their repentance and God's returning. God is quick to run to the repentant heart. Ps 32:5³ Like the prodigal's father who ran across town to his own disgrace to meet his returning son, so will God meet you at the altar.

C. His Sure Approval^{vs} Sin in our lives causes us to come to hide to avoid confrontation with God. Recently on visitation

I knocked on the wrong door. The people we were to visit were next door, outside sitting on patio, when they realized we were coming to visit them they ducked in the house and started playing ear shatter music.

IV. Trailing After the Lord → Not obeying

the admonition in verse 3 is the whole reason they are in this backslidden condition to begin with.

A. The Person of Our Pursuit - 3a+b This phrase can also be translated "So let us know, let us press on or persevere to know the Lord!" Christ and to know him more intimately is to be the person of focus, the pursuit of our life's horizon. Phil 3:10 To know the Lord is not only to know His saving grace but as one author writes it is to know "the

B. The Promise of Our Pursuit - The preacher Hosea is making a promise that if we would pursue after him, his going forth is prepared as sure as the morning. This word translated going forth is sometimes translated spring or springing up. It is speaking of abundant overflow. Clark: Just as sure as the sun rises in

C. The Provision of Our Pursuit - These rains would be very clear to hearer of Hosea. The former rain is the rains of October to Dec that prepare the soil for seed. The latter rains came from late Feb to April and prepared the ear for harvest. These two rains caused the otherwise barren land of Israel to flourish.

V. Closing - Are you the one that could sing "did I wander far away from God" You can come home / repent. Let us Return unto the Lord. Sinners Come and see taste & see that the Lord is

- 1) ...to begin with. The word translated follow in verse three means "~~to follow~~ or to press on or to pursue or to chase" In the wilderness the children of Israel were commanded to follow the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. David said in Ps 23 the Lord is my shepherd...He leadeth me. Jesus words to his disciples were follow me. The reason they were backslidden is that they failed to pursue Him!
- 2) Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;
- 3) ...is to know "the blessings of His Word, the sweet fellowship and peace of the Holy Spirit, the power of prayer, the reliability of His promises, the faithfulness of His provision and care and the tenderness of His love." Upon our repentance and His reception and our revival and renewal there must be a resolve, a made up mind to follow to pursue our gracious and merciful king! He who is altogether lovely!
- 4) Clark - The manifestation of his mercy to our souls is as certain as the rising of the sun at the appointed time.
- 5) ...sun rises in the east we will encounter a fountain of mercy, grace, love, and blessing. ^{De Profundis Azariah} 2 Chronicles 15:2 And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.
- 6) Just like those rains, the Lord will provide the necessary elements in our lives to turn our barren unfruitful relationship, to a relationship of blessing and fertility.